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Providence Independent

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PROVIDENCE INDEPENDENT.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NOTHING.

VOL. 5.

TRAPPE, PA.,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1879.

WHOLE NUMBER, 228.

MOTHER.

Lead thy mother tenderly—
Down life's steep incline,
Once her arm was thy support,
Now she leans on thine.
See upon her loving face
Those deep lines of care;
Think—it was her toil for thee,
Left that record there.
Ne'er forget her tireless watch
Kept by day and night,
Taking from her steps the grace,
From her eye the light,
Cherish well her faithful heart,
Which thro' weary years,
Rejoiced with its sympathy
All thy smiles and tears.
Thank God for thy mother's love,
Guard the precious boon;
For the bitter parting hour
Cometh all too soon.
When thy grateful tenderness
Loves power to give,
Earth will hold no dearer spot
Than thy mother's grave.
—From the *Douglas Democrat*.

CHILDHOOD'S COUNTRY.

Oh, pleasant land of childhood,
I turn to say good-bye
To all your spring-time pathways
That now behind me lie—
To the happy skies above you,
To voices by the way,
And the well-remembered places
Wherein I used to play.

When on my knees I knelt
Doll-children still and fair,
And washed their patient faces,
And brushed their golden hair,
Thought they knew and loved me,
Those children on my knee;
When sorrow affliction found them
What grief it was to me!

One fell and broke her ankle,
And one put out her eye,
And one her wicked uncle
Shot at maliciously,
And left her sadly lying,
The saw dust bleeding fast
From her poor wounded body,
Until she died at last.

Buried her at nightfall,
Beneath a lonely tree,
And from her grave a violet
Sprang up to comfort me.
My dogs, my cats, my pony—
Ah, childhood's joy and pain,
With all these boon companions
I've left upon the way!

But that so pleasant country,
With all its joy and pain,
Lost in the mist behind me,
I cannot find again.

I miss its verdant woodlands,
The promise of its skies,
The days that dawned upon me,
Each one a sweet surprise.
Farewell, oh spring-time valleys,
Wherein I used to stray—
A summer world awaits me,
It is no longer May!

A Mountain Ride.

Of course we girls all pitied Rachel Tinkham, but we never quite made her one of us.

She was such a shy little thing, and blushed if you spoke to her, and acted afraid of her own voice, and wore print dresses all the time, and never was invited to our parties.

She lived in a tumble-down old house which had been a very grand mansion once.

The Tinkhams had been great people in my grandmother's day. Nothing was left of their grandeur now, however, for there had been wine in one generation, and whiskey in the next, and *delirium tremens* in the third.

Ray's father was the third. She had a wretched time keeping house for him. Her mother was dead.

We were the girls of Mrs. Bland's private school.

A dozen of us were out upon the east veranda one morning. We were all talking at once. Some one, it seemed, had said the high school girls were better scholars than we were.

'Very well. So they are.'

This was Kate Avery, and she was standing up by the lattice where the morning glory vines grew, and where a hundred clusters of little bells swung out—blue and purple and rose-pink. If Kate was anything, she was honest.

Though she was handsome too.

'We have music and French conversation, and Lou has a phaeton, and I have two donkeys, and Queeny has been to Europe; but, lowering her voice, it's an awful secret though it's the truth. The high school girls are miles and miles beyond us in Latin and mathematics.'

'Indeed they are,' said I. 'I'm what mademoiselle calls an 'idgit' in arithmetic. I really suppose that two and two make four, but if one of those girls were to tell me that they made five, I shouldn't dare dispute her.'

'The fact is,' said Kate, 'little Tinkham is the only one of us who is sure of her multiplication table. But then she doesn't really belong to us. She would not be here if it wasn't for sweeping and dusting to pay her tuition. There she is this minute.'

A small, tired-looking figure in a coarse dress came in sight around the corner. It was Rachel with her load of books in her arms.

'She has worn that dress every day for three months,' said Lou Stedman; 'I verily believe she goes to bed when it is done up.'

'My dear, she can't. She has to wash and iron it herself. Oh, there is

Queeny!' cried Kate. It was such a gentle, graceful girl who came walking fast to overtake Ray, caught step as she overtook her, and began talking pleasantly. 'Doesn't she look nice in that seal brown suit? And isn't it just like her to carry Ray's books for her?'

Queeney's real name was Alice. You would have known why we called her Queeny if you had seen her walk beside little Tinkham that morning, open the gate, and stand still, erect, with that grand way of hers for the girl to pass through. I believe we all rather worshiped Queeny.

Kate met them with her forehead all tied up in hard knots, and asked Ray, 'didn't she want to be an angel,' and help her with those dreadful fractions?'

So they two sat down on the doorstep, and the rest went into the school-room. Then Lou called out to Ray to come and dust her desk. She said 'it wasn't half dusted,' Queeny said:

'Ray is busy. I will do it,' and she silent and looking prouder than ever, dusted Lou's desk herself.

It was this morning, Friday, that Mrs. Bland told us that to-morrow would be 'Mountain day.'

All the schools in our town drive to the mountain once a year. Our day always came in September.

This time Mrs. Bland couldn't go, so she sent along her cousin to matronize us. She was a dignified person, afraid of spiders, and no good any way.

'We were to start at nine o'clock,' Queeny said. 'Ray can you be ready so early?'

Queeney was a new scholar. She didn't know that Ray never went with us to such places. Now she flushed and replied:

'I don't think I can go to the mountain.'

'Certainly, you are going,' Alice said in her queenly way. 'If you can't go to-morrow we will put off going.'

'Saturday is my day to clean the school-room,' Ray answered.

'We will clean it. Let's begin this minute, and off came Queeney's cuffs and Kate's, all the cuffs, in fact. We went to work, and had such fun sweeping and scrubbing. Just imagine Kate and Queeny washing the floor. They did it well, too.

'Now, remember,' Queeny said, the last thing, 'everybody is to wear her oldest dress. And Ray, would you be kind enough to bring hard-boiled eggs for your luncheon? One apiece for us all round?'

Ray looked bright all over, and said yes.

Now I think it was just beautiful of Queeny to think of that. She knew little Tinkham couldn't bring frosted cake and French rolls as the rest of us did.

She spoke of the eggs. We all remembered that Ray had wonderful chickens. I am sure that the word about old dresses, too, meant to help her.

The next morning Obed Taintor came round with his uncovered omnibus and his two great horses and picked us up.

We went for Ray last. She was standing in front of the old house, beside the tumble-down gate, with her basket of eggs in her hand.

She looked perfectly happy, and her dress was so clean and smooth Kate whispered to me:

'That dress has been washed and ironed since last night. Just think of it!'

It was a clear, warm morning, and every one was in such a glow of good spirits. I think we were all glad we had Rachel with us.

But if it hadn't been for Queeny Ray would never have gone, and if Ray hadn't gone the rest of us would never have come home, and this story—for there is a story—would never have been told.

It is eight miles to the mountain and there is a carriage-road to the top. The last two miles are very hard and steep, because you rise nearly a thousand feet above the Connecticut river in that distance.

But Obed was a steady, good driver and his horses were steady, good horses.

We always drew lots for the seat beside Obed, and it was one of our treats to get him talking about his 'team,' as he called it.

'What are their names?' asked Queeny.

'Well,—a pause. Obed was a slow talker, but he had a great deal to say. 'The off one there is Caesar and the high one he is Alexander.'

'Are they afraid of the cars?'

'Ain't afraid o' nothin' in natur.'

Obed paused for us to think this

over, and then went on:

'Know too much, them creeturs do. They've carried a load to the mountain four times a week this summer. They'd take 'em 'bout 's well of I wan't along. They know—well—beats all what them animals know. Understand it I'm talkin' 'bout 'em this minit 's well 's you do. They refused to being talked to. My wife she thinks a sight of them. Beats all! She'll go out to the barn, and she'll carry 'em apples, and she'll be all over 'em; and week when she was sick, and kept in the house, you c'n believe it or not, but it's a fact them creeturs lost flesh. She braids up their front hair for 'em, and ties it with a red ribbon one day, and the next day she upbraids it, and it's crimped, all in the fashion, you'll understand. As they was a coming to a party to day, they've got their hairs crimped.'

But alas for Caesar, and aleck for Alexander. It was a terrible piece of work at you came near doing that day, though we girls never shall feel that you were much to blame.

You see this was what happened.

We were all tucked into the wagon as tight as figs in a box, that afternoon, ready to start for home, when Lou called out that she had left her parasol. She must get out, and run up to the tower and get.

'You just your sittin',' said Obed. 'I'll fetch yer umberill,' and he started for the tower.

It was about ten rods off. The tower and stable are built in a small cleared space at the top of the mountain. All around and below are thick old woods and great rocks.

Obed had just gone out of sight when Queeny gave a little scream, and put her hand to her eyes. 'Something has stung me,' she said, and then, that instant, while we were looking at her, it happened.

The horses both reared, then gave a plunge, the omnibus seemed to rise from the ground with a great leap, and sooner than I can tell it, we were all being borne, at an awful speed, down that narrow rocky road.

I glanced toward Caesar and Alexander, and saw a terrible pair of wild animals. I looked towards the girls, and saw two rows of white, frightful faces.

The reins were dragging on the ground. Some of us were shrieking. 'Whoa!' A few were getting ready to jump. All this in an instant, and then, suddenly, above the noise of the wheels and of everything else, we heard a voice ring out clear.

'Sit still, girls! I think I can stop the horses.'

It was Ray Tinkham, of all people in the world.

She stood up with a steady look in her eyes.

I must explain here that the road from the tower runs down a gentle slope for half a mile, and there comes a sharp turn. Beyond this is Long hill, the steepest, most dangerous part of the way. Kate seized my hand and whispered:

'If the horses are not stopped before they get to the turn, we shall all be killed.'

Ray was climbing over the driver's seat. She always could climb anywhere, like a cat. She didn't pause an instant but she called back to me:

'Natty Brock, put on the brakes. The rest of you sit still. Only pray as hard as you can.'

I sprang to the driver's seat, and jammed down the handles of the brakes. I prayed too. I believed I should never pray again.

I saw and thought of a hundred things at once. I saw the great tree trunks and the huge black rocks close upon us. I remembered the elematis over the front door at home, and wondered who would tell my father that I was dead.

Meanwhile, Ray was over the dashboard, and down with her feet over the whiffletree.

How she did it, I shall never know, but the next we saw of her, she was creeping along the pole between the horses, steadying herself with her hands on their backs.

The horses went tearing on like wild horses, their manes flying, and their great bodies quivering all over.

Every instant the girls were becoming more excited.

Queeney was holding Mrs. Bland's cousin with both hands, to prevent her leaping out. Kate cried:

'We are almost to the turn. What is Ray doing? She will frighten the horses worse than ever!' and she covered her eyes.

The brow of the hill was not forty feet off. Far behind, we could hear Obed's voice screaming to the horses to stop. The keeper of the tower was flying towards us.

But they were too far away to do any good. There seemed not one chance a thousand for us. But that very instant, when we all believed we were lost, we looked at Ray.

We saw her reach forward with one hand, and grasp the reins which joined the heads of the horses together. Just where the connecting straps crossed one another her fingers clutched them.

One sharp, fierce jerk of those great heads backward, and the horses slackened their speed, and in an instant more stopped.

The wagon stood still, although the creatures were snorting and plunging yet. But that small hand of Ray's held on with a death-grip, and in a moment more Obed caught the horses by their heads.

His face was as white as it ever could be, and he spoke one word only. It was.

'Hornets!'

The horses had been stung in more than twenty places. They were unharnessed at once, and we were all out on the ground directly.

We laughed and cried, and Mrs. Bland's cousin distinguished herself by fainting away.

'I don't blame the horses in the least,' Queeny said. 'One sting is bad enough, and she showed where her eye was beginning to swell. The hornets came swarming out of the woods there.' As for Obed, he was a humiliated man.

'But I was the one to blame,' he said. 'I thought the horses would have stood till the hides dropped off'n their ribs; but I tell yer ther' never was the team hitched up yet that 'ud stan' hornets. Blast the creeturs!' he added, in undertone.

But Ray Tinkham! cried Kate, and she went up to where the little thing was sitting on a rock, looking pale.

'You saved us all, you blessed child. How did you ever think of doing that?'

'My grandmother stopped some runaway horses in that way once,' gasped Ray. 'I didn't know whether I could stop these, but I knew somebody must do something, or we would all be dashed to pieces.'

'Well,' said Obed, 'I've known of that thing's been done just once afore in my lifetime, but it was a boy that did it. There's a sayin' 'mongst teamin' men that, when you haint got the reins, you can stop a runaway if you walk out on the pole and grip hold o' the bridles, but 'tain every horse that'll stand it.'

'But wasn't it splendid of Ray?' cried Lou, going over, and putting her arms round her.

'Never knew a girl c'd have so much pluck,' answered the driver. 'If she hadn't 'a' been light on 'er feet, an' level in 'er head, she never c'd 'a' done it. I tell you if these horses hadn't been uncommon good horses, nothin' on earth would 'a' stopped 'em.'

And Ray? I never meant to make so long a story of it, but I must tell you that we gave her a party soon after this. All the fathers, and mothers, and brothers went, and we carried her a carpet for her room and a new chamber set, and nice new clothes all through; and a few of the gentlemen gave her a bank-book, whatever that may mean. I only know that she was to have the income of certain money, and that was enough to educate her thoroughly. We had the best time that night, and Queeny's father took Ray out to supper, and she sat at his right hand, and everybody treated her as though she had been a princess of the blood.

'I do believe there never was a happier girl on earth than Rachel that night.'

—*Youth's Companion*.

WHY THE LIGHT WENT OUT.

Next time you go out on the Michigan Central road take a seat on the right-hand side of the car, so that you may notice, about ten miles down the road, a little old red farmhouse. The curtains will be down, the doors shut, and rank weeds and tall grasses will meet the flying glances in the front yard. A month ago old Nan Rogers lived there; to day the place is in the keeping of rats and mice and desolation. The old woman was a widow and childless. If she had a relative anywhere in this great world, those who buried her were not aware of the fact. She lived all alone, having only a bit of land and being aided by kind neighbors to raise enough to supply her wants. Seven or eight years ago, when her last child left home to meet a violent death on this same road, the men of the rails became interested in that quaint old farmhouse. One night they saw a bright light in one of the windows. Its rays streamed out over the flowers and fell upon the rails along which the wheels thundered, and the engineer wondered over the signal. The lamp was there the next night and the next, and it was never missed for a

ago. Old Nan, deprived of husband and children, made friends with the rushing trains and their burdens. The trainmen soon found that the lamp was for them, and they watched for it. During the early evening hours they saw old Nanny's face behind the light or at the door, and a thousand time conductors, engineers and brakemen have called cheerily through the darkness:

'Good night, old Nanny; God bless you!'

Winter and summer the light was there. Winter and summer the trainmen looked for it, and the more thoughtful ones often left a bit of money with the station men beyond to help the old woman keep the bright rays shining. The lamp was not there for one train, but for all, and all the men understood the sentiment and appreciated it. One dark night not long ago, when the wind howled and the rain-drops beat against headlight and cab, the engineers missed the signal light.

They looked for it again and again, as one who suddenly misses an old landmark in the city, and when they failed to find it the hand instinctively went up to the throttle, as if danger lurked on the curve below. Each trainman aboard that night looked for the signal, became anxious at its absence, and made inquiries at the stations above and below. Next day men went down to the little old house, fearing old Nanny might be ill. There sat the lamp on the window-sill, but the oil was exhausted. In her bed, seeming to have only fallen asleep, was the poor old woman, cold and dead. Life and lamp had gone out together, and men of rough look and hardened heart replied, as they heard the news:

'Poor old woman! May her spirit rest in heaven!'

—*Detroit Free Press*.

BOUND TO SPEND.

During an excursion from this City to Niagara Falls, and while at Cleveland, an incident occurred which will never be forgotten by those who heard it. The Kennard House at the City was crowded with guests, when an eccentric and witty druggist of Smithfield street appeared late at night at the hotel office and demanded a bed. The clerk replied that there only two vacant beds in the house, one wherein was quartered a Pittsburg morning newspaper man and the other in a room wherein was a Pittsburg evening newspaper man, who were with the excursion.

'To tell the truth,' they are both pretty drunk—so you may take your choice as to which room you will sleep in.'

The druggist said that on general principles he would take his chances with the evening newspaper journalist, as they excelled the morning men in more ways than one, and he would doubtless be so drunk that he would lie dormant quiet all night. He went to bed and was soon sound asleep. The journalist, however, awakened about 12 o'clock, and, thinking it a long time between drinks, dressed himself, unconsciously, in the druggist's clothes, and sailed out to make a night of it. Ever and anon he muttered as he treated all present:

'Funniest thing I ever heard of. When I went to bed last night I only had 25 cents to my name, and now I've got over a hundred dollars (showing a corpulent roll of bills), and I'm bound to spend every cent of it before morning.'

He did.

A ROMANTIC LOVE STORY.

The Count de St. Croix, belonging to one of the noblest and wealthiest families in France, became engaged, after a long and assiduous courtship, to a lady, his equal in position and fortune, and famous for her beauty. Shortly after the happy day was appointed, which was to render two loving hearts one, the count was ordered immediately to the siege of Sebastopol; so he girded on his sabre, and at the head of his regiment marched to the battle field.

During the count's absence it happened that his beautiful fiancée had the small pox. After hovering between life and death for many days she recovered her health, but found her beauty hopelessly lost. The disease had assumed in her case the most virulent character, and left her not only disfigured, but seemed and seemed to such a frightful extent that she became hideous to herself, and resolved to pass the remainder of her days in the strictest seclusion.

A year passed away, when one day the count, immediately upon his return to France, accompanied by his valet, presented himself at the residence of his betrothed, and solicited an interview. This was refused. He, however, with the persistence of a lover, pressed his suit, and finally the lady made her appearance, closely muffled in a double veil. At the sound of her voice the count rushed forward to embrace her, but stepping aside she tremblingly told

into tears. A heavenly smile broke over the count's handsome features, as raising his hands above, he exclaimed:

'It is God's work; I am blind.'

It was even so. When gallantly leading his regiment to the attack, a cannon ball passed so closely to his eyes, that while it left their expression unchanged and his countenance unmarked, it robbed him forever of sight. It is almost unnecessary to add that their marriage was shortly after solemnized.

NOT EXACTLY IN HIS LINE.

Last evening after the performance was over at the circus a young man called on Chiarini and said he wanted to see him on private business. The old veteran took him into his office and received him with his usual politeness.

'I came all the way from Carson to see the show, and I would like to join,' said the young man.

'Oh, I see,' said the circus man; 'you are a well formed, healthy looking young fellow, and I'd like to encourage such as you.' The youth's face brightened.

'You don't chew, smoke, or, drink, I hope?'

'Oh, no; honor bright—except soda and beer.'

'You must leave off these bad habits. They weaken the muscles and paralyze the nerves. You can soon stop drinking, but your salary will not be larger until you have over come these little tendencies.'

A little lemonade—circus lemonade—is all the performers drink. Call at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning and I will see what I can do. You mustn't expect over \$50 a week, though, at first. We never pay high salaries until we know just what a man can do.'

The delighted Carsonite went away, and this morning was on hand.

Chiarini took him to a tent where three immense Bengal tigers were caged. Handing him a curry comb and a pair of shears, he remarked:

'Your duties will be comparatively light at first. You will go in the cage and curry the animals down every morning, and about once a week out their claws; keep 'em down pretty short, so that when they attack the tiger-tamer, Mr. Wilson, they won't lacerate him much. Sometimes, but not more than once a month, you may have occasion to file their teeth. You just throw the animal on his back and hold his head between your knees. If he acts rough, belt him in the nose a few times. Keep telling him until he quiets down.'

'Haven't you got a vacancy in the art department?' asked the young man from Carson.

'Is art your line?' inquired Chiarini.

'Yes, drawed the young man. In the circuses I've always run with I used to paint the red stripes on the zebras. I killed so many tigers keepin' em straight that the boss wouldn't let me handle em. He said I used em too rough.'

Chiarini swears that the terror from arson shall have the first vacancy.

Don't carry a long face into the sick room.

Never betray the confidence of a friend.

The October carpet is now on the meadow.

Wheat was known in China 2700 years B. C.

This is the walking year; the next will be leap year.

Even the bootblack says his business is brightening up.

Love is a noun, and yet they often make a conjunction.

No one is ever fatigued after the exercise of forbearance.

The worst thing to put on your property is a mortgage.

Plenty of light and sun is essential to all domestic animals.

Mothers, teach your daughters to become good housekeepers.

Radnor, Delaware county, was settled by the Welsh in 1685.

Keep out of debt, and your sleep will be sound and refreshing.

Twenty-seven of the Atlantic City hotels will be open this winter.

The population of the city of Philadelphia in 1751 was about 17,000.

The paper napkins, in general use in restaurants, are said to be economical.

It saddens us to see the dissipated mosquitoes hanging around the bars.

As soon as a man swears off smoking every one he meets offers him a cigar.

We should do well to take counsel from the wise and warning from the foolish.

Women are archers by nature. The bent of their inclination is to bend

HOWARD LEOPOLD'S.
215 HIGH STREET, BOSTON.

